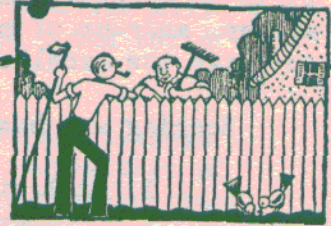




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

Member--Men's Garden Clubs of America • Minnesota State Horticultural Society



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G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors  
Wm. H. Hull, Joe Witmer  
Ev Haedecke

## January Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 12, 1960  
Place: Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church  
Knox Ave. So. & W. 50th St.  
Time: 5:45 P.M. Sharp  
Price: \$1.75

## Officers

Wm. H. Hull	President
Les Johnson	Vice President
Dwight Stone	Secretary
Ev Haedecke	Treasurer

Office of the Secretary  
4620 Hampton Road

Office of the Exchange Editor  
G. Victor Lowrie  
401 Essex Building

## FIRST PROGRAM OF THE NEW YEAR

### 1) Annual Business Meeting

President's Report: P. W. Young  
Secretary's Report: Dwight Stone  
Treasurer's Report: Ev Haedecke

Presentation of Budget for 1960  
1960 Introductory Report -- President: Bill Hull

### 2) Bull Session. Dr. Fred Rodda will lead off the discussion with a talk on "Enjoying Birds in Winter" and P. W. Young will follow with a demonstration of a unique filing system for garden information.

Our thanks to everyone who helped to make our Christmas Party so festive and enjoyable.

HAPPY GARDENING EVERYONE!

May they be bigger, better, brighter and more beautiful!

## 1959 CIVIC AND INDUSTRIAL AWARD WINNERS

Six years ago, our Club in an attempt to encourage business and industrial firms to beautify the grounds surrounding their buildings formed a Civic Committee, made-up of past club presidents under the chairmanship of Joe Witmer, to judge the excellence of their landscaping.

Scoring was based on the following 6 points:

1. Relationship of ground to building.
2. Proper set back of the building.
3. General landscape design.
4. Maintenance of the property.
5. Effect on public relations.
6. Effect on employee relations.

Each year for six consecutive years, the Club has awarded plaques of merit to those judged to be the most outstanding in conformance to the six scoring points.

We congratulate the following 1959 winners:

Midwest Steel, Inc., 1520 South Lilac Drive  
Mr. Knutson, General Manager, accepted.

Coast-to-Coast Stores, Excelsior, Minnesota  
Mr. Clark, Manager, accepted.

Second Church of Christ Scientist, 2nd Ave. at 12th St.  
Mr. Fithian, Vice Chairman of the Board, accepted.

## EIGHT GREEN THUMB AWARD WINNERS

Eight men were honored at the Christmas Party, by being indoctrinated into the Order of the Green Thumb, an award bestowed, for the first time by this Club, for perfect attendance during the year 1959.

So honored were: Bill Brooks, Paul Burt, Ev Haedecke, Eng Hoyme, Les Johnson, Maurice Lifson, Dwight Stone and P. W. Young.

These men were administered the following pledge by Bill Hull, who had previously been initiated into the order at a National MGCA Convention:

"I pledge my life to the spade;  
As long as I can spade in the shade.  
With a mind that is clean  
And a thumb that is green,  
Yes, that is the life that I crave."

Each man was then decorated with a green thumb made of green felt.

## SECOND CHICAGO WORLD FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW ANNOUNCED

The Second Chicago World Flower and Garden Show will be held from Saturday, March 19th through March 27, 1960, it was announced by Dr. R. Milton Carleton, general chairman of the show. The location will again be the International Amphitheatre, 42nd and Halsted St., the world's largest exhibition hall.

An impressive list of business, professional and industrial leaders and their wives will act as patrons and patronesses. Other supporters of the show include most of the country's leading horticultural organizations and specialty societies.

Many of the specialty societies are planning exhibits of their hobby flowers, which contributed both beauty and practical information to last year's show. The 1960 show will devote even more space to such educational exhibits.

Among the larger exhibitors will be the Garden Club of America, (Central Western Zone); the Woman's Board of the Chicago Horticultural Society; the Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judges of Illinois, Inc.; the Allied Florists' Association of Illinois; the Ornamental Growers Association of Northern Illinois; the American Rose Society (three Chicago regions); the American Society of Landscape Architects and others.

Over night the huge central arena of the Amphitheatre will become a breathtaking landscape of living gardens with trees, shrubs and flowers in full bloom, set against bright green lawns.

The main plan, by Harold O. Klopp, landscape architect, is based on a classical design with a central walk flanked by "period piece" gardens in a nostalgic vein. These will contrast with modern gardens which are so placed that they do not clash with the traditional theme of the central allee.

Exhibitors in the central arena include Jackson & Perkins, Vaughan's Seed Company, Ornamental Growers of Northern Illinois, Charles Klehm Nurseries, Amling's Flowerland and A. Lange and Son.

The climax of the arena display will be a towering hillside by the Chicago Park District, planted with brilliant plant material, with a glistening waterfall as its backdrop.

The Show will again be under the sponsorship of the Chicago Horticultural Society, of which W. A. P. Pullman is President. Frank Dubinsky, under whose management the Show was such an outstanding success in 1959, continues as its managing director. Attendance last year exceeded 170,000; for 1960 an attendance of at least 200,000 is expected.

### TWO SPECIAL AWARDS

Dick Lehman and Roger Koopmans of Faribault were honored at the Christmas Party by being ceremoniously awarded with a special "Little Red Jug" for having traveled the greatest accumulated distance in attending 1959 meetings -- a total of 1,760 miles. The awards in the form of portable red gasoline tanks were donated by Ev Haedecke and presented by him, jointly with Dwight Stone.

## TUBEROUS BEGONIAS FROM SEED

by H. G. Harlow

In the eastern United States early December is the best time to start begonia seed although January sowings will be satisfactory. The seed should be sown on the surface of a layer of sterilized soil about an inch thick. Compost with sand, vermiculite and peat moss added to give a loose porous texture is ideal. I usually add a little powdered charcoal to keep the mixture sweet. Inert materials such as vermiculite alone will give good germination but require constant feeding with very dilute soluble plant food. Clay seed pans or shallow flats are good containers. I prefer six or eight inch square flats with screen bottoms to allow aeration from below. The seed bed is moistened by submerging the bottom.

A card folded to a V-shape makes an excellent device for distributing the tiny seeds. By gently tapping it with a pencil the seed will roll off the end one by one. If the number of seed are kept down to 10 or 20 per square inch less trouble will be encountered in transplanting. No attempt should be made to cover the seed or press it down. The seed pan is covered with glass and a sheet of paper, to keep the light subdued, and placed where the temperature is 60 to 70 preferably with bottom heat.

In about eight days the seeds will swell and begin to show white beneath the seed coat. The paper can then be removed. Several days later the dicotyledons will appear and the glass can be removed if the atmosphere is moist as in a greenhouse. Otherwise it may be well to leave the flat partly covered with glass for another week or two. Water from the bottom when surface shows signs of becoming dry.

After about six or eight weeks from the time of sowing the little plants should have their first pair of true leaves (in addition to the dicotyledons) and they are then ready for the first transplanting. A flat with the same mixture as before, an inch and one-half thick, should be used. A half inch of vermiculite below the  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches of soil will improve the drainage. The plants can be loosened and then lifted with tweezers, picking them up by the dicotyledons which serve no further purpose. They can be planted on one inch centers.

After six or eight weeks more the plants will begin to crowd each other and the flat can be cut up in one inch squares like a pan of fudge. At this stage I like to transfer the plants to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inch square plant bands filled with about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches of the same soil mixture as before. The soil at this stage need not be sterilized unless it is considered worthwhile for weed prevention. Plant bands consisting of asphalt dipped in a fertilizer solution work very well. Wood veneer bands may also be used but careful attention should be given to feeding with dilute soluble fertilizer perhaps once a week. Three inch pots may be used instead of plant bands but they take more room and require more attention.

After another six to eight weeks the plants will be ready to harden off in a cold frame. This is an important step and should not be omitted particularly if the plants have been grown under warm conditions. The temperature should be kept above  $40^{\circ}$  if possible and of course the plants must not be exposed to freezing.

As soon as the weather permits the seedlings should be transplanted into the beds. Hot caps may be used to get an extra early start or the plants covered if frost threatens. Prepare the soil to give a loose porous mixture.

## TUBEROUS BEGONIAS (con't)

Coarse sand, compost, peat moss, or any decayed organic matter will help improve most soils. A little 5-10-5 or organic fertilizer or both may be worked into the soil with the soil conditioning materials. The roots do not go down more than four or five inches so that below that level only the drainage is important. A spacing of 8 or 10 inches on center is about right for seedlings. The sunnier the location the closer the spacing can be. In no case should the plants be exposed to sunshine in the early afternoon unless it is well filtered by trees or wood lath. As much morning sunshine as possible will be beneficial except in hot locations where the heat is trapped by a wall or solid fence. Very late afternoon sunshine is second best. It is a waste of plants and time to put them in dense shade.

Mulching is of tremendous help in keeping the soil cool and moist, keeping weeds down, and keeping the blossoms clean. It also helps prevent stem rot which is the principal disease of begonias. Straw, leaves, grass clippings, shavings, sawdust, buckwheat hulls or any other clean loose organic material will serve as mulch. Mulching materials remaining at the end of the season can be raked off the beds and used again the following year.

Some growers consider that a daily spraying of the leaves is beneficial but if the beds are mulched only an occasional soaking in very dry periods will be required. The leaves are normally a rich green color. If the green takes on a dark and bluish color, it indicates over feeding. If the color fades toward a light yellow green, then careful feeding with a dilute soluble fertilizer is in order. Fertilizers with a high phosphorous content will improve the blooming particularly in the latter part of the season but overfeeding will produce little but foliage.

Seedlings started in early December and transplanted into the garden in early May will normally start to bloom in June. By August the bed should be a solid mass of color and this will continue until frost. Night temperatures of around 60° are ideal for begonias. In areas where the summer temperatures stay at high levels for long periods the difficulty of growing first-class begonias is almost insurmountable. Where the temperatures are normally moderate but an occasional hot spell occurs the blooming will suffer for several weeks but then return to normal.

Tubers are formed only during the short days of the fall. If an early frost hits the plants in September or early October, the tuber will not usually be large enough to harvest. Unless they are close to an inch in diameter, there is little chance of their coming through the winter. Under favorable weather conditions one can get 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 inch diameter tubers in the East. In California where the plants are not dug until December large tubers are possible.

Once you have grown a successful planting of seedlings you will worry very little about harvesting tubers of any but the very best plants. The seedlings have more vigor, grow more uniformly, have less disease and provide

(con't)

## TUBEROUS BEGONIAS (con't)

a longer season of bloom than even the one year old tubers and of course the older tubers have less and less vigor each year.

There is a great deal of variation in begonia seed and as in most flowers the top grade seed will be obtained from specialists rather than general seedsmen.

(Contributed by Bill Ost)

## MORE ON THE CLARK DWARF APPLESTOCK

As I read the April '59 issue of your magazine, I was particularly attracted by the short article on Page 116, entitled "Extremely Dwarf Apple Trees," by Dr. Frederick W. Coe, San Anselmo, California. In his second paragraph Dr. Coe described the origin of a dwarf apple stock as having come from a Mr. H. Walton Clark who found the stock "while hiking" during a visit to "his old home in Indiana." Now it happens that this same Mr. H. Walton Clark was the man for whom the Clark Dwarf apple was named. The origin of the Clark Dwarf was described by Dr. Maney (Trans. Iowa State Hort. Soc. 78:127-134) as follows:

"About 1924 we acquired an interesting hardy dwarf stock which was introduced to us by H. Walton Clark, a biologist, who was connected with the United States Bureau of Fisheries Biological Station at Fairport, Iowa. Mr. Clark was an ardent amateur horticulturist and he had discovered a dwarf type of tree growing in the garden of an old lady living in Muscatine, Iowa. The tree at the time was probably 20 to 25 years old and during its life had experienced temperatures as low as -25°F without showing any signs of injury. The history of the variety as given by the lady was that her son was a sailor and he had brought the stock back from South America. The characteristics of the leaves and type of growth indicate that it undoubtedly is a type which might have originated as a seedling from the original Paradise, but it is distinct in its characteristics from the new standardized English stocks."

The Clark Dwarf has been shown to be identical with the Malling VIII rootstocks of the so-called English rootstocks. This was reported by Professor Karl D. Brase in the Proc. Amer. Soc. for Hort. Sci. 61:95-98, 1953.

The somewhat obscure description of the origin of the Clark Dwarf by Maney and the equally nebulous origin of the stock described by Dr. Coe suggest the strong possibility that these stocks are one and the same and that properly they should both be placed in their proper classification, Malling VIII -- Malcolm N. Dana, Assistant Professor of Horticulture, The University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin -- Reprinted from the National Horticultural Magazine, Vol. 38, No. 4.